

after three hours the Atabeg stopped the slaughter, and granted to the survivors their lives, property, and the exercise of their religion.

The fall of Edessa was the first of the hammer-strokes before which the Frankish states crumbled away. The news of it spread general consternation both in the Holy Land and in Europe. The county had been the farthest and most valuable outpost of the Latin colonies, protecting like a rampart the states of Antioch and Tripoli from the pressure of Aleppo and Mosul. If the strategic loss was fatal, the moral effect was far-reaching. The Christians remembered that Edessa was a holy city, the capital of that King Abgarus who was credited with a letter to our Lord, the burial-place of St. Thomas. The Moslems heard the news in every land where Islam had followers, and rejoiced that the loss of Jerusalem, fifty years before, was avenged,

At the news the King of Jerusalem summoned in haste the prelates and barons of the kingdom of Jerusalem, and it was resolved to send without delay an appeal to the kings of the West, representing the perilous fortunes of the Frankish States. The appeal was carried to the Pope, an

he lay at Viterbo during November,
1145, by
Hugh, Bishop of Gabala. Eugenius
realised the
danger to which not only the Latin
states, but also
the Latin Church, were exposed in the
East, and
immediately sent off letters to the
leading princes
of Europe, but he was of a timid and
reluctant